

#22
MOONSTONE
\$3.99

THE PHANTOM™



Mike Bullock
Silvestre Szilagyi

THE PHANTOM

created by LEE FALK

"CHECKMATE"
PART TWO OF FIVE

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EXCLUSIVE **COMIC COLLECTOR LIVE COVER**
BY **BRIAN DENHAM**

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR PHANTOM CONSULTANT
ED RHOADES

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DOWNTOWN MAWITAAN.
SCENE OF THE
THWARTED TERRORIST
ATTACK.*

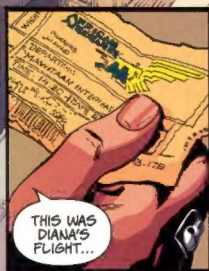
THERE HAS TO
BE SOMETHING
HERE THAT CAN
LEAD US TO THE
TERRORISTS,
DEVIL.



MRRR...



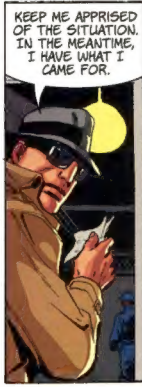
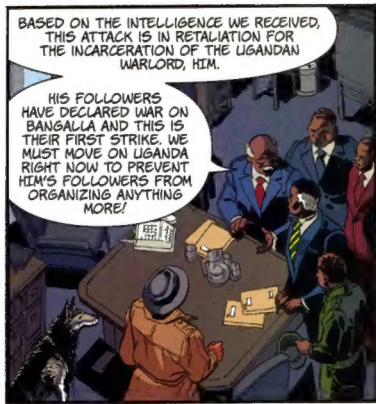
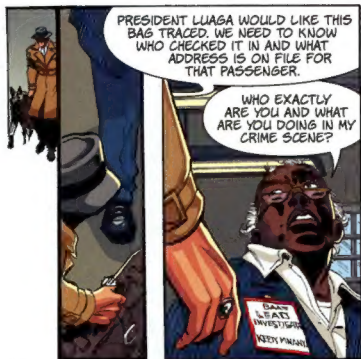
GOOD JOB,
BOY.

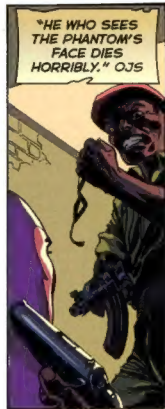


THIS WAS
DIANA'S
FLIGHT...

*SEE LAST ISH. -
GHOST WHO EDITS









ALEXANDRIA, EGYPT.
HEADQUARTERS OF
THE LOCKE
CORPORATION.



...IF IT WASN'T FOR
YOUR PEDIGREE, I'D
HAVE HAD YOU KILLED
THE MOMENT YOU
WASHED ASHORE.

AND IF IT
WEREN'T FOR YOUR
ABILITY TO HELP ME
ACHIEVE MY GOALS, I'D
HAVE YOU FITTED FOR A
COLUMBIAN NECKTIE
FOR SPEAKING TO ME
IN THAT TONE.



YOU PROMISED TO
DELIVER THE JADE DRAGON*.
DO YOU THINK I'D HAVE
ACHIEVED ALL THIS IF I
CONTINUED TO PUT MY FAITH
IN MEN WHO CAN'T KEEP
THEIR PROMISES?

*SEE PHANTOM ANNUAL #1 -
GHOST WHO EDITS



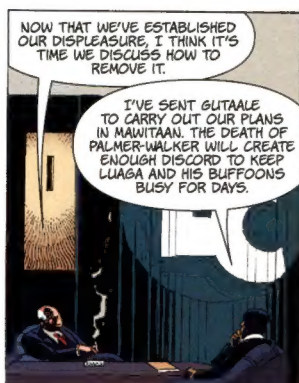
YOU NEVER
STRUCK ME AS A
MAN OF FAITH.

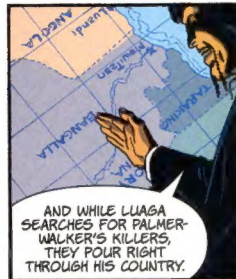


TOUCHÉ...



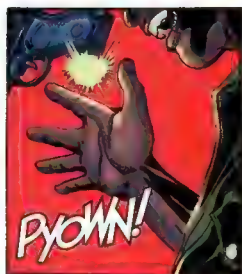
AND YOU NEVER
STRUCK ME AS A
MAN WHO BREEDS
FAILURE...

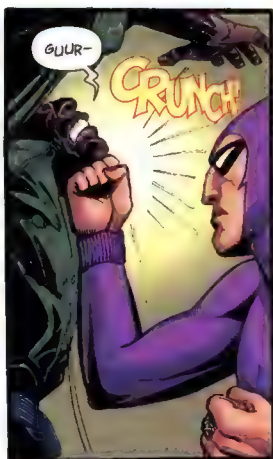
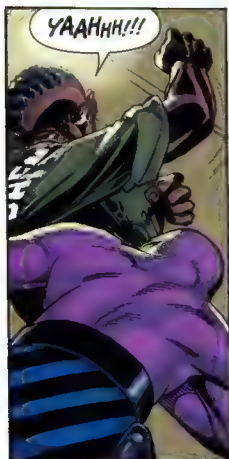














ONCE WE HAVE SECURED THE FLOW OF DIAMONDS, WE PURCHASE OUR STAKE IN OPEC. THEN WE BUY THE HEADS OF STATE FOR THE REST OF THESE PITIFUL COUNTRIES.



WE NEED ONLY TAKE OVER A HANDFUL MORE AND WE'LL GAIN CONTROLLING INTEREST OF THE ENTIRE REGION.

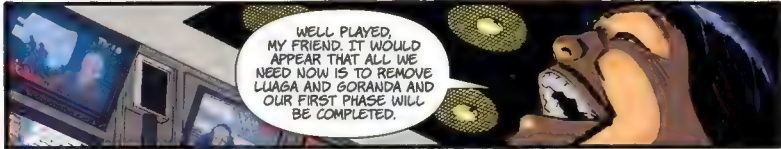
ABDUL-JABBAR ADHAM SIGNED ON LAST WEEK AND PROMPTLY LED A CORPORATE TAKEOVER OF KUWAITI PETROL, REPLACING THAT DO-GOODER, JAMAL IBN-SAUD.



YOU NEGLECTED TO TELL ME THIS BEFORE. ARE YOU KEEPING SECRETS FROM ME, LOCKE?

I WAS WAITING TO SURPRISE YOU WITH THE GOOD NEWS. RIGHT AFTER YOU TOLD ME OF YOUR PUPPETS IN THE SUDAN, LIBYA AND MOZAMBIQUE.

EVERY MAN HAS A MASTER, AND WE SHALL BE THEIRS.



WELL PLAYED, MY FRIEND. IT WOULD APPEAR THAT ALL WE NEED NOW IS TO REMOVE LUAGA AND GORANDA AND OUR FIRST PHASE WILL BE COMPLETED.



LUAGA WILL BE GIVING A SPEECH SOON, WHERE HE'LL PROPOSE UNIFYING NORTHERN AFRICA FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH, SECURITY AND FUTURE PROSPERITY IN AN ALLIANCE WITH THE WESTERN WORLD UNDER PALMER-WALKER'S THIRD WORLD, FIRST STEP UN ECONOMIC PROGRAM.

IF HE MANAGES TO RALLY THE OTHER NATIONS BEHIND HIM, OUR PLAN MAY YET FAIL.



WELL THEN, WE'LL NEED TO REMOVE HIM BEFORE HE HAS THE CHANCE. AND ONCE HIS FRIEND IS GONE, GORANDA WILL BE ALL ALONE, RIPE FOR OUR HARVEST...

INDEED. HOWEVER, I'M THINKING THAT WE SHOULD REMOVE LUAGA IN A MORE SENSATIONAL MANNER THAN WE'D PREVIOUSLY PLANNED. SOMETHING MORE PUBLIC...



IF THE ARMED FORCES ARE BUSY SUPPRESSING UPRISINGS, THEY'LL NEVER HAVE TIME FOR OUR DIAMOND MULES.

AH, TEMUR SINGH...

IN SOME WAYS WE ARE SO VASTLY DIFFERENT, YET IN OTHERS WE ARE AS ONE. WITH OUR INVESTMENTS IN DIAMONDS, OIL AND STOCKS ALL HINGING ON THE WORLD ECONOMY THAT WE SHALL SOON CONTROL, WE'LL BE THE TWO RICHEST MEN ON EARTH.



ALI, ARE YOU READY?

YOU BET YOUR--

ELOQUENT AS EVER, I SEE. NOW, TAKE YOUR TROOPS AND MOVE INTO UGANDA. IT WILL BE A SIMPLE MATTER TO UNITE THE REMNANTS OF HIM'S ARMY UNDER YOUR CONTROL.

NATURE ABHORS A VACUUM AND AN ARMY NEEDS LEADERSHIP. YOU CAN FILL THAT VOID AND SERVE THEIR NEEDS IN ONE FELL SWOOP.

I'VE ALWAYS WANTED MY OWN ARMY...



THEN WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR, GENERAL GUTAALE?



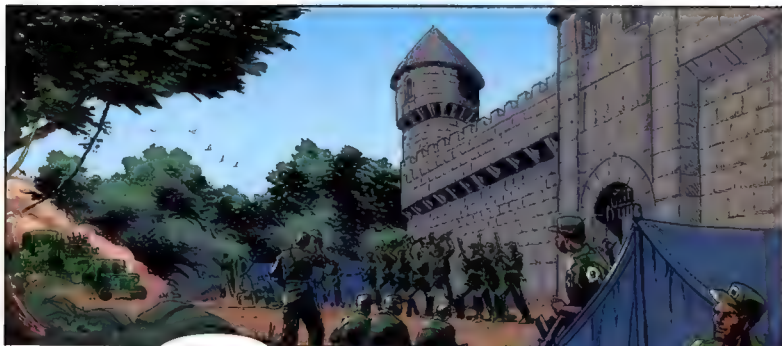
HOW'S AN INVADING ARMY FOR "SENSATIONAL", TEMUR?

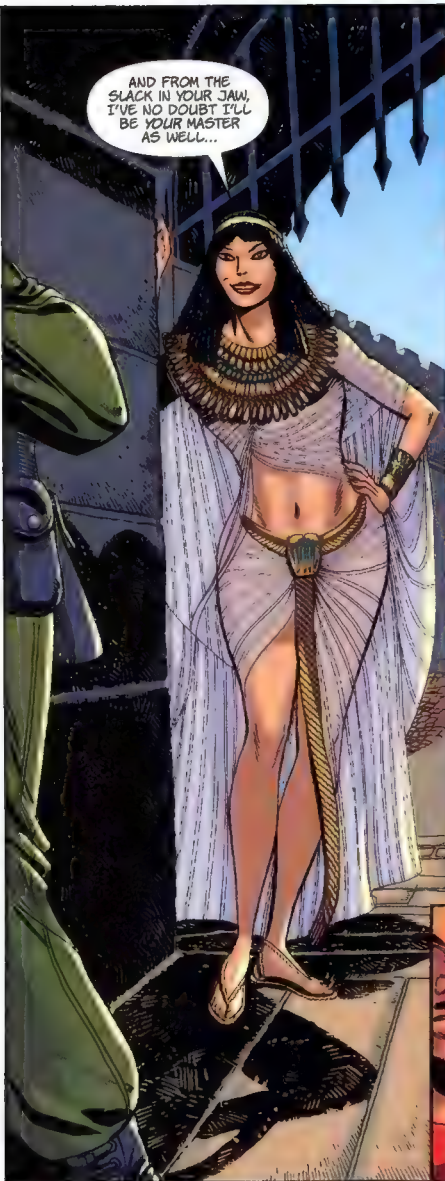
IF THEY CAN LEARN TO CO-EXIST, IT WILL BE DELIGHTFUL.



"THEY"?

OH, MY APOLOGIES, I ALSO FAILED TO TELL YOU ABOUT ANNA BACIA, HIM'S EX-LOVER AND CURRENT LEADER OF HIS LEGACY...





AND FROM THE
SLACK IN YOUR JAW,
I'VE NO DOUBT I'LL
BE YOUR MASTER
AS WELL...



LOCKE TOLD
ME THERE'D BE
PERKS TO THIS
GIG...



YOU DIDN'T
TELL ME WE
HAD COMPANY,
MY LOVE.

MANUEL ORTEGA. I
THOUGHT THE PHANTOM
KILLED YOU!



YOU MUST HAVE
MISSED THE
MEMO, ALI.

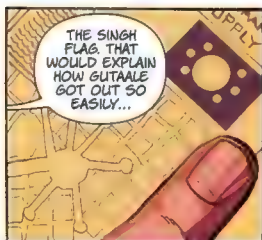
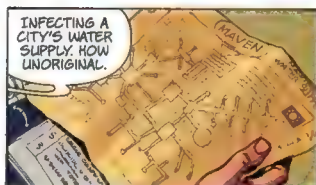
NOT ONLY AM I ALIVE,
TOLLO, BUT YOUR
MASTERS NO LONGER
HOLD SWAY OVER
HIM'S ARMY.



IT IS MY DIVINE
RIGHT TO RULE
OVER THIS LAND,
WHICH GIVES YOU
A CHOICE.

ADAPT-

OR DIE.





IT SEEMS THERE'S FAR MORE GOING ON HERE THAN MEETS THE EYE. SEE IF YOU CAN FIGURE OUT WHAT'S IN THIS STUFF, GURAN AND WHAT IT'LL DO TO A PERSON.



THIS BOTTLE CONTAINS THE EVILS OF CIVILIZED MAN...



WILL THAT LEAD US TO THEM?



WHAT DO YOU MEAN "US"?

I'M GOING WITH YOU. I'M GOING TO HELP YOU GET BACK AT THEM FOR WHAT THEY DID TO MOM.



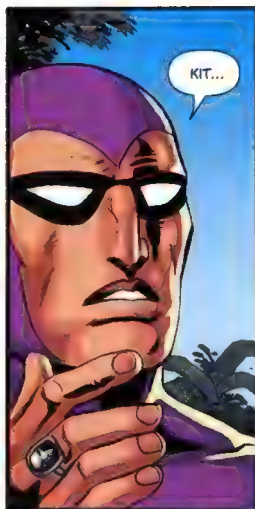
KIT, WE'VE TALKED ABOUT THIS BEFORE.*

WE AREN'T IN THE REVENGE BUSINESS. BEING THE PHANTOM MEANS BRINGING JUSTICE, WHICH IS EXACTLY WHAT I PLAN ON DOING.



YOU DON'T EVEN CARE, DO YOU?

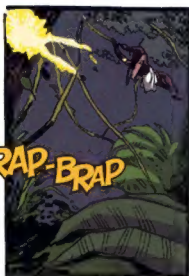
*SEE PHANTOM #14 - GHOST WHO EDITS





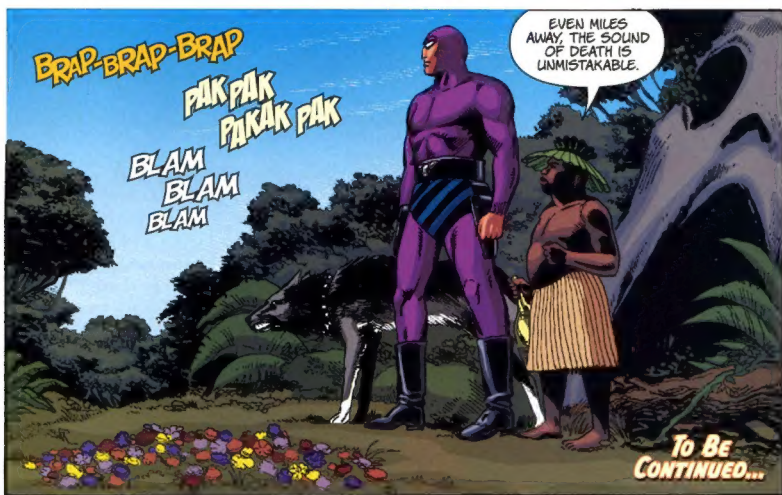
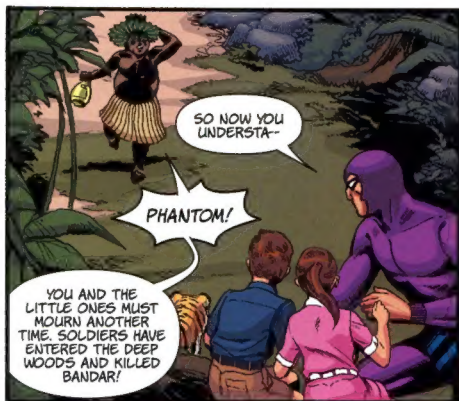
HELOISE...
I--





BOOM BADA BADA BOOM BOOM

SOLDIERS?
IN THE DEEP
WOODS?



BEHIND THE MASK

By Ed Rhoades

The Phantom Unmasked

As a kid, I recall reading *The Toadmen*, a story where someone finally unmasked the Ghost Who Walks... despite the warning "No one can see the Phantom's face and live."

Ray Moore must have drawn his conception as to what the Phantom looked like without his mask when he drew Jimmy Wells. Wells was to be the Phantom's secret identity.

In my youth I watched the strip change hands from Wilson McCoy to Sy Barry without either of them ever showing the Phantom's face. In McCoy's *Childhood of the Phantom*, a young Phantom is shown with his face obscured by being off the panel, in shadows, or behind a baseball. In his entire fight with the Heavyweight Champ, which was more than 15 panels showing the young Phantom, there are none that show his face.

In the Falk/McCoy, it was an unwritten rule not to show the Phantom's face. It ran parallel to the conventions of a popular TV show at that time *The Lone Ranger*. The origin story for *Lone Ranger* showed the actor Clayton Moore as a young Texas Ranger being ambushed, left for dead and found by an Indian he had befriended years before. All the scenes showing the unmasked *Lone Ranger* never revealed his face. Moore kept the convention for his fans and wore the mask for all public appearances. When a modern day *Lone Ranger* film starring Clinton Spisbury was filmed, it was decided that allowing the enormously popular Moore to continue wearing a mask would detract from the new film's release. The licensing department required him to remove the mask, and he quickly complied donning dark sunglasses reminiscent of the mask. Moore put an effort into keeping the mystery and mystique of *The Lone Ranger* intact.



In the 1943 Columbia serial *The Phantom*, the young Phantom to be Jeffrey Prescott is seen unmasked when not in the role of the Phantom.

In the 1996 Paramount film *Billy Zane* travels incognito as Kit Walker. In today's world, careers are as important as the film's concept and it's hard to imagine a manager that would allow his actor to play such a starring role without showing his face. At that part in *Billy Zane*'s career, recognition was essential and Lee told me that Billy credited his appearance as *The Phantom* for getting him the role of Cal for *Titanic*.

There are traditional Phantom fans who not only oppose the Phantom's face being shown, but they even bristle at the idea of his eyes being shown. Bill Lignante stunned readers by showing *The Ghost Who Walks*' eyes and even evidence of ears beneath the hood. A rumor began that Lee had fired Bill for showing the eyes. Bill told me it was simply untrue. They decided at that point to give the strip to Sy Barry and to assign the Northwest Publishing comics *Gold Key* and *King* comics to Bill.

When Luke McDonnell drew the DC *Phantom* comics, the closest he came to showing the Phantom's face was a youthful picture of Walker in the high school yearbook.

What most readers don't realize is Ray Moore showed the Phantom's eyes in the first story *The Singh Brotherhood*. Sy had scenes where he showed the modern Phantom unmasked at a dance when he was eighteen, and a sequence where an earlier Phantom carried his father to the tomb. However, once the man becomes the Phantom, Sy stopped showing the face. (except for a drawing he made for me for an article called *Unmasking Sy Barry*).

In more recent years, Graham Nolan stirred up controversy when some felt he crossed the line in his depiction of the Phantom on a hospital bed. There was a bit more revealed than usual including a clear detailed rendering of his eye... but half of his face was in shadow.
(*The Graham Nolan Sundays vol 1* by Moonstone.)

Unmasked and taunted by his adversaries in the DC *Phantom* miniseries, he smeared his face with dirt from the ship's floor to keep some semblance of the mask.

Fans who have come to expect a mysterious depiction of the Phantom are happy that Moonstone's *Phantom* stories have been traditional. The closest Moonstone has come to revealing the Phantom's face was in *The Ghost Killers* illustrated by Fernando Blanco. On a page inspired by the Paramount film, the Phantom is shown talking with Diana on a phone without his mask and cowl. Although the image resembles Billy Zane, the eyes are in shadow showing no more of his face than the mask would have revealed.

FOR A DEEPER LOOK BEHIND THE MASK, CHECK OUT THE ONLINE COLUMN AT WWW.BROKENFRONTIER.COM